Government have taken steps to start an Industrial Estate in the Quilon District. The Industrial Estate is intended primarily to relieve unemployment and to accelerate the pace of industrial development. The scheme is expected to involve a total outlay of Rs. 44 lakhs. The Government of India will finance the entire scheme by way of loans. A provision of Rs. 31 lakhs has been made in the next year's budget for the scheme.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the progress achieved during the year in the scheme for the development of Coir Industry which is of vital importance to thousands of poor workers all along our coastal area. Out of 187 Coir Co-operative Societies scheduled to be organised 182 Societies have already been organised bringing into the Co-operative fold 31,936 members holding 1,00,472 shares. The remaining 5 Societies will also be organised during this year. The Societies have collected a sum of about Rs. 4.66 lakhs so far as paid up share capital and the total turnover of the Societies amounts to Rs. 260 lakhs. Till the end of January 1956 a sum of Rs. 30.08 lakhs has been disbursed as loan and Rs. 2.68 lakhs as grant and it is hoped that the entire amount of loan and grant provided for will be disbursed before the year is out. The next year's budget provides a sum of Rs. 2.87 lakhs for payment of grants, etc., to Coir Co-operative Societies and another sum of Rs. 18.80 lakhs for the grant of loans to these Societies.

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AGRICULTURE.

17. The most important achievement this year in the field of Agriculture is the establishment of an Agricultural College at Vellayani. Fifty students have been admitted during the current academic year. The strength is proposed to be raised to 80 next year. The College offers a 3 year course leading to the B. Sc. (Agri.) Degree of the University of Travancore. The College has a well equipped experimental Farm consisting of 100 acres of dry land and 350 acres of wet land, which provides facilities for research as well as practical training in Agriculture. Soil survey, Paddy breeding work, entomological work and Plant Pathology are some of the items on which research is being conducted in the Farm. The total financial outlay on the College for the first six years including 1955-56 and the second Five Year Plan period is estimated at Rs. 45 lakhs. Seventy-five per cent of the capital expenditure on this Institution will be given as a grant by the Government of India.

[Shri A. J. John]

The importance of experiments and research in the scheme for improvement of agriculture cannot be over-emphasised. The budget for the next year contains provision for research on tapioca and sweet potato, mango and pineapple, bunchy top disease of bananas, arecanut, cashewnut, pepper and cardamom. Demonstrations in ryots' land, expansion of cocoanut nurseries, improvement of paddy, biological control of cocoanut pest, purchase and distribution of green manure seeds and control of the leaf and root disease of the arecanut are among the schemes which will be undertaken by the Agricultural Department in the next year.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

18. The State has a large, but degenerated cattle population. The Key Village Scheme which aims at improving the breed and productive capacity of the cattle has already been introduced in six centres in the State. Bulls of inferior varieties in selected centres are castrated and breeding with pedigree bulls is carried on. The technique of artificial insemination is also applied in these centres free of charge. More institutions of this type will be started next year. There is already a net work of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries and more dispensaries and hospitals are proposed to be opened during the Second Five Year Plan period. The department also runs Livestock Farms, Poultry Farms, Dry Stock Farms and Duck Farms on modern lines. The Type Scheme for cross breeding, opening of new centres under the All-India Poultry Development Scheme, improvement of the Livestock-cum-Dairy Farms, opening of dry stock farm at Quilon, establishment of Gosadans and Gosalas, and the starting of artificial insemination centres and fodder farms are only a few among the various schemes for which funds have been provided in the next year's budget of the Animal Husbandry Department.

To overcome the dearth of qualified Veterinarians, a Veterinary College has been started at Ollukkara, where there are ample facilities for the expansion of the institution. The College is started with the assistance of the Central Government. There are at present 70 students for the B. V. Sc. Degree course which runs for a period of four years. It is hoped that from next year onwards 80 students can be admitted.

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